

1 Honorable Thomas S. Zilly
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8
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
11 AT SEATTLE

12 F.L.B., a minor, by and through his Next Friend,
13 Casey Trupin; et al.,

14 Plaintiffs-Petitioners,
15 v.

16 Loretta E. LYNCH, Attorney General, United
17 States; et al.,

18 Defendants-Respondents.

19 Case No. 2:14-cv-01026-TSZ

20 PLAINTIFFS' SUPPLEMENTAL
21 BRIEF REGARDING COURT'S
22 PROPOSED CLASS AND
23 SUBCLASSES

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs agree that this Court’s Class and Subclasses, Dkt. 266, satisfy Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) and are appropriate for certification, with two caveats. *First*, the Court’s restriction of the class to children potentially eligible for asylum and certain other relief excludes children who are eligible for forms of relief that *both parties* previously agreed should be included, such as relief for children abandoned or abused by their parents or for victims of human trafficking.

The Court should modify that restriction consistent with the parties' prior positions.

Second, although Subclasses 2a and 2b likely satisfy Rule 23, certifying these Subclasses would run counter to the rationale of the Court’s rulings rejecting the Government’s motions to dismiss, as well as footnote 1 of the Main Class definition. Those rulings establish that the relevant distinction for due process purposes is whether a child is in removal proceedings before a judge (rather than in an expedited removal process). Whether the child is charged with a ground of removal based on inadmissibility or instead on deportability has no legal relevance, and therefore does not warrant the creation of Subclasses 2a and 2b.

Finally, Plaintiffs propose a modest notice plan that would serve the purposes of certification and comport with governing Ninth Circuit law in this context.

ARGUMENT

I. The Main Class Satisfies the Requirements of Rule 23(a) and 23(b)(2).

The Court’s Main Class satisfies Rule 23’s requirements, and in particular the commonality requirement. All children in the Court’s Class are united by two key characteristics: they must stand before Immigration Judges (“IJs”) pro se and litigate their cases against trained Government prosecutors; and they are children under 18, the most commonly-used age line across all legal systems involving youth. Indeed, Defendants have not identified *any other legal system in this country*, federal or state, where children under 18 are forced to litigate pro se against government lawyers. *See* Dkts. 253, 254. Consequently, all children in the Class share the common claim that the Due Process Clause requires the Government to

1 ensure them legal representation. The commonality of the Class is unaffected by requiring that
2 Class members be potentially eligible for certain forms of relief specified by the Court, *see*
3 *infra* Part III. The relief limitation simply adds another common characteristic to this group.
4

5 As for numerosity, this Court has already recognized that Defendants initiate tens of
6 thousands of immigration proceedings against children every year. *See* Dkt. 114 at 1 n.1; Dkt.
7 191 at 11-12. The Class remains numerous notwithstanding its restriction to the Ninth Circuit.
8 As of March 2016, there were over 4,600 pro se children and over 7,400 pro se family units
9 (i.e., at least one parent together with at least one child) with pending cases venued in the Ninth
Circuit. *See* Seventh Declaration of Stephen Kang (7th Kang Decl.) ¶7, ¶12-13.

10 The potential relief limitation does not alter numerosity. A high percentage of these
11 children have potential asylum claims. *See* Dkt. 234 ¶¶10-12 (legal service provider stating that
12 “over 80%” of unaccompanied children have asylum or SIJS claims); Dkt. 230 at 18-19 (citing
13 United Nations report finding that at least 58% of children in immigration proceedings
14 surveyed had asylum claims); Dkt. 235 ¶8 (expert declaration noting that in a given month 30%
15 of children in ORR custody were identified as asylum-eligible, and opining this is likely an
16 underestimate). In addition, the vast majority of children in the Class are from El Salvador,
17 Guatemala, and Honduras, which are experiencing unprecedented levels of violence. *See* 7th
18 Kang Decl. ¶¶14-16. Indeed, even taking the lowest estimate of 30%, which is closer to the
19 percentage of children whom the Government finds are *actually* (rather than potentially)
20 eligible for asylum nationwide,¹ there are still more than 1,380 Class members in proceedings
21 without parents, and another 2,220 in proceedings with family members. Taken together, these
22 statistics and the reasonable inferences from them supply an ample basis for finding the Class
23

24 ¹ *See* U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Refugees, Asylum and Parole System MPA and PRL Report*
25 10/01/15-12/31/15 (Jan. 5, 2016), available at <http://tinyurl.com/z2fv5rr> (reflecting that during the last quarter of
26 2015, USCIS granted approximately 40% of asylum applications filed by children nationwide – including about
50% of those at the Los Angeles Asylum Office and about 80% of those at the San Francisco Asylum Office,
which are the two offices with jurisdiction over children seeking asylum in the Ninth Circuit).

1 numerous. *See Californians for Disability Rights v. California Dept. of Transp.*, 249 F.R.D.
2 334, 347 (N.D. Cal. 2008) (explaining that “courts regularly rely on” statistical data and
3 “common sense assumptions” in assessing numerosity).

4 In addition, all the Plaintiff children (other than J.R.A.P., who is in Florida) can serve as
5 adequate and typical representatives for the Class, as Rule 23(a)(3) demands only that
6 “[Plaintiffs’] claims be ‘typical’ of the class, not that they be identically positioned to each
7 other or to every class member.” *Parsons v. Ryan*, 754 F.3d 657, 686 (9th Cir. 2014). Every
8 remaining named Plaintiff child is indigent, pro se, in the Ninth Circuit, and potentially eligible
9 for asylum or other qualifying relief. *See* Dkt. 207 ¶¶ 81-95, 108-119, 124-127.²

10 Finally, the Class – as a subset of Plaintiffs’ original proposed Main Class, Dkt. 230 at 4
11 – satisfies Rule 23(b)(2)’s requirement that “injunctive or corresponding declaratory relief is
12 appropriate for the class as a whole.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). “[T]he primary role of [Rule
13 23(b)(2)] has always been the certification of civil rights class actions.” *Parsons*, 754 F.3d at
14 686. Here, Plaintiffs seek relief from a systemic policy and practice that forces them to appear
15 in immigration court in adversarial proceedings without counsel. *See* Dkt. 191 at 21-22.
16 Plaintiffs have also shown that certification under Rule 23(b)(2) would serve multiple
17 important purposes, including saving the parties the burden of litigating this claim in numerous
18 individual cases, permitting adjudication of the common claim notwithstanding the mootness of
19 some of the individual Plaintiffs’ claims, and allowing children who otherwise would be unable
20 to present this important challenge an opportunity to do so. *See* Dkt. 230 at 20-22.³

22 _____
23 ² The Ninth Circuit recently reaffirmed that even Plaintiffs whose claims have been dismissed as moot can serve as
24 class representatives. *See Chen v. Allstate Insurance Co.*, __ F.3d __, 2016 WL 1425869 at *5 (9th Cir. Apr. 12,
2016) (“Once the class has been certified, the case may continue despite full satisfaction of the named plaintiff’s
individual claim because an offer of judgment to the named plaintiff fails to satisfy the demands of the class.”)
(citation omitted). Thus, the F.M. siblings could serve as representatives here, under *Chen*.

25 ³ Plaintiffs hereby preserve their request for certification of the original class and subclasses they proposed. This
26 briefing addresses only the Court’s tentative certified class and subclasses because Plaintiffs read the Court’s order
as having rejected their original proposals to the extent it differs from them. *Compare* Dkt. 239 with Dkt. 266.

II. The Subclasses Also Satisfy Rule 23(a) and (b)(2).

Subclass 1: children under the age of 14. This Subclass satisfies commonality for the same reasons the Class is common. Although Plaintiffs maintain that governing law, the record in this case, and the state law consensus most strongly support drawing the line at 18, Dkt. 253 at 1-7, a Subclass of younger children necessarily satisfies commonality for the same reason that a Class of children under 18 would. Notably, while Defendants' expert has *suggested* that *some* children under 18 may be able to represent themselves, he does not opine that children under 14 – or children of any particular age – are able to do so. *See* Dkt. 237-1 ¶¶34-42.

There can be no dispute that Subclass 1 is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. Defendants themselves have represented that “[y]oung children comprise a substantially greater percentage of the subclasses than seventeen year-olds.” Dkt. 238 at 16. Publicly-available data confirms this claim. Approximately 27% of children in immigration proceedings were 14 and under as of 2010. *See* Olga Byrne & Elise Miller, *The Flow of Unaccompanied Children Through the Immigration System*, Vera Institute of Justice (Mar. 2102), available at <http://tinyurl.com/c6ace5s> (estimating ages of children put into ORR custody from October 2008 through September 2010). News reports confirm that significant numbers of pro se children are 14 or younger, and that the number of young children fleeing persecution is increasing. *See* David Rogers, *Under 16 and ordered deported – with no lawyer*, Politico (Nov. 18, 2015), <http://tinyurl.com/jx2hxjc> (from mid-July 2014 through August 2015, “at least 392 children, all 14 or younger and without defense counsel, were ordered removed after a single hearing before an immigration judge”).

Assuming the conservative estimates set forth above – that approximately 1,380 Class members are in proceedings by themselves, and another 2,220 are in proceedings with family members, *see supra* Part I – if even one-quarter of such children are under 14 it is reasonable to infer that about 345 children in Subclass 1 are in proceedings alone, and another 600 are in proceedings with family members. Such figures plainly establish numerosity.

1 Finally, Plaintiffs A.E.G.E., A.F.M.J., L.J.M., M.R.J., E.G.C., and K.N.S.M. are all
2 adequate and typical representatives of this Subclass, as each of them is under 14.

3 Subclasses 2a and 2b: children alleged to be inadmissible or deportable. While Plaintiffs
4 agree that these Subclasses could satisfy Rule 23, Plaintiffs oppose their creation because both
5 of the Court's rulings rejecting the Government's motion to dismiss (as well as footnote 1 to
6 the Main Class) counsel against certifying them. As this Court's Main Class definition makes
7 clear, the relevant question for due process purposes is whether a child is in removal
8 proceedings before an IJ. *See* Dkt. 264 at 10 (explaining IIRIRA's merger of deportation and
9 exclusion into "the broader category of 'removal proceedings'"); Dkt. 114 at 28-29 (same).
10 After IIRIRA, all individuals in such proceedings are entitled to a fair hearing, and this Court's
11 Main Class definition already excludes individuals not in such proceedings. *See* Dkt. 266 at 1
12 n.1 (observing that "Plaintiffs do not pursue a right-to-counsel claim on behalf of any juvenile
13 aliens who are in 'expedited removal'").

14 That children are charged with inadmissibility as opposed to deportability grounds
15 within the unified process of removal proceedings has no bearing on this fundamental shared
16 characteristic. Nor does it reflect any other conceivably-relevant characteristic, such as whether
17 a child is labeled as "arriving," or whether a child has recently entered the United States. For
18 example, M.A.M. was living in this country for years before being placed in removal
19 proceedings, but was charged as inadmissible. *See* Dkt. 191-1, Ex. B; *see also* Dkt. 207, ¶¶ 17,
20 86-89. The charging ground reflects only the difference between individuals who are or were at
21 some point admitted to the United States (who are charged with deportability grounds) and
22 individuals who were *never* admitted (who are charged as inadmissible). This fact has no legal
23 relevance for due process purposes. As the Supreme Court has made clear, the fact that an
24 individual is charged as inadmissible cannot strip them of due process protections. *See Landon*
25 *v. Plasencia*, 459 U.S. 21, 33-34 (1982); *cf. Judulang v. Holder*, 132 S. Ct. 476 (2011)

1 (rejecting as irrational Government's attempt to make charging decision dispositive of
2 substantive rights, because "the Government has provided no reason to think that immigration
3 officials must adhere to any set scheme in deciding what charges to bring So at base
4 everything hangs on the fortuity of an individual official's decision.").

5 Nonetheless, if this Court wishes to create Subclasses based on the Government's
6 charging decisions, Subclass 2a would plainly satisfy Rule 23(a) for the same reasons that the
7 Main Class would: it consists of children in removal proceedings before an IJ, and who must
8 litigate against a trained government prosecutor. Subclass 2a is also undeniably numerous; the
9 vast majority of children in immigration proceedings are charged with grounds of
10 inadmissibility. *See* Supplemental Declaration of Susan B. Long (Supp. Long Decl.) ¶¶7-8. In
11 addition, all of the Plaintiffs (except J.R.A.P.) are adequate and typical representatives, as
12 Defendants have alleged they are all inadmissible. Dkt. 191, Exs. A, C-G; Dkt. 229 at 1.

13 Subclass 2b presents a closer question. Government data shows that there were about 22
14 pro se children in the Ninth Circuit whose proceedings were initiated since FY 2014 who were
15 alleged to be deportable. Supp. Long Decl. ¶8. This class may satisfy numerosity in part
16 because "[this] class includes unnamed, unknown future members," *Nat'l Ass'n of Radiation*
17 *Survivors v. Walters*, 111 F.R.D. 595, 599 (N.D. Cal. 1986), and because these children cannot
18 otherwise vindicate their counsel claims, the numerosity requirement is relaxed, *see Rodriguez*
19 *v. Hayes*, 591 F.3d 1105, 1123 (9th Cir. 2010) (certifying class in part because of "the severe
20 practical concerns that would likely attend them were they forced to proceed alone"). Courts
21 have certified classes smaller than this for such reasons. *See Ark. Educ. Ass'n v. Board of Ed. of*
22 *Portland*, 446 F.2d 763, 765-66 (8th Cir. 1971) (class of 17); *McMillon v. State of Haw.*, 261
23 F.R.D. 536, 542-43 (D. Haw. 2009) (class of 47, ten of whom had live claims); *cf. Jordan v.*
24 *Los Angeles Cnty*, 669 F.2d 1311, 1319 (9th Cir. 1982) (class of 39), *vacated on other grounds*,

1 459 U.S. 810 (1982). Presently, no named Plaintiff could serve as a representative, but
2 Plaintiffs have sought to identify such a child through discovery. *See* 7th Kang Decl. ¶26.

3 In any event, because all children in Subclass 2b would be encompassed in the Court's
4 Main Class, and because the strength of a child's due process interests cannot turn on their
5 specific allegation of removability, Plaintiffs do not believe that Subclass 2b need be certified.

6 Subclass 3: all children whose removal proceedings are consolidated with those of at
7 least one parent or legal guardian. This Court's recent denial of Defendants' motion to dismiss
8 Plaintiffs A.F.M.J., L.J.M., and M.R.J. shows why this Subclass satisfies commonality. This
9 Subclass shares with the Class the same legal claim for appointed legal representation. *See* Dkt.
10 230 at 14-15. As this Court has explained, these children's counsel claims are not defeated by
11 the fact that they are in proceedings with their parents, given that a parent cannot act as a
12 proper "representative" for the child. *See* Dkt. 264 at 16, 18-19.

13 This Subclass is also unquestionably numerous. Over 7,400 pro se family units are in
14 proceedings in the Ninth Circuit. *See* 7th Kang Decl. ¶¶9-13; Dkt. 230 at 14 (citing DHS
15 statistics on family apprehensions). An experienced legal services provider in Los Angeles who
16 sees large numbers of pro se families where parents are in consolidated proceedings with their
17 children, confirms that about 90% of them are *prima facie* eligible for asylum. *See* Declaration
18 of Daniel J. Sharp in Support of Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief Regarding Court's Proposed
19 Class and Subclasses ¶10; *see generally R.I.L.R. v. Johnson*, 80 F. Supp. 3d 164, 172 (D.D.C.
20 2015). Even applying a conservative 30% estimate related to asylum eligibility, *see supra*, this
21 Subclass would contain over 2,200 of the children in these families.

22 Plaintiffs A.F.M.J., L.J.M., and M.R.J. are adequate and typical representatives, as all
23 three of them are in consolidated proceedings with their mother. *See* Dkt. 230 at 15.

24 Subclass 4: all children who qualify as an "unaccompanied child" as defined in 6 U.S.C.
25 279(g)(2). As with Subclass 3, the claims of "unaccompanied" children are common for the
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1 same reasons that the Class is common: they all share the same claim for legal representation.
2 The children of this Subclass have the additional common trait that they are not in consolidated
3 proceedings with their parents.⁴

4 This Subclass is numerous. Publicly-available statistics show that ORR releases tens of
5 thousands of children designated as “unaccompanied” to sponsors in the Ninth Circuit. *See*
6 Office of Refugee Resettlement, Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors By State,
7 <http://tinyurl.com/ol9wbre> (last visited May 5, 2016). In the first half of FY 2016, ORR
8 released over 3,000 children to California alone, and over 3,600 in the entire Ninth Circuit.
9 While ORR’s statistics do not say whether the child is pro se, representation rates indicate that
10 substantial numbers of children in these states lack representation. *See* 7th Kang Decl. ¶¶17-22
11 (showing that historically, 35.8% of children litigate pro se in California, and 83% in Arizona).
12 Assuming, again conservatively, that only 30% of those children are asylum-eligible, *see supra*,
13 these figures more than suffice to establish numerosity as to this Subclass.

14 Plaintiffs F.L.B., E.G.C., and A.E.G.E. are typical and adequate representatives.
15 Defendants designated F.L.B. and A.E.G.E. as unaccompanied when they arrived, and F.L.B.
16 and E.G.C. are not currently living in the United States with a parent. All three therefore satisfy
17 the federal definition of “unaccompanied” under Section 679(g)(2).

18 **III. This Court Should Include Children Eligible for Other Critical Forms of Relief
19 Under the Immigration Statute in the Class.**

20 For three reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully propose that the Court amend the Class
21 definition to include children eligible for forms of relief recognized by Congress as bases for
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23 ⁴ Defendants’ arguments prior to and during the March 24, 2016 hearing create some ambiguity about the scope of
24 this Subclass. Plaintiffs presume the Court intends to follow the definition of “unaccompanied” child used in
25 practice by the federal government – which treats a child as “unaccompanied” under Section 279(g)(2) if they
26 were not accompanied at the time of their apprehension – even if they were later reunited with a parent. As
Plaintiffs have explained, Dkt. 230 at 13 n.10, DHS affixes a “UAC status determination” to a child who meets the
statutory definition upon *apprehension*. Only an official, subsequent action can strip that status from a child. *See id.*; Dkt 231, Ex. E at 1-2. Thus, the Government treats children as “unaccompanied” regardless of whether they
are later reunited with a parent, and the Court should adhere to that definition.

1 terminating removal proceedings. Plaintiffs therefore ask the Court to include children in the
2 Class definition who are:

3 potentially eligible for asylum under 8 U.S.C. 1158, withholding of removal under 8
4 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture, potentially able
5 to make a claim of United States citizenship, *or potentially eligible for other remedies*
under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

6 *First*, this change would be consistent with *both* parties' positions in their supplemental
7 briefing. *See* Dkts. 253, 254. In their brief, Defendants observed that the class definition
8 "should be anchored in statutory grounds for protection from removal" and that "[o]ther types
9 of claims that might be appropriate for inclusion . . . are those that would lead to the
10 termination of proceedings." Dkt. 254 at 9-10 & n.3. Plaintiffs took the same position, urging
11 this Court to adopt a definition that included children eligible for "all remedies made available
12 by Congress," and not exclude "several categories of children who plainly deserve protection,
13 such as victims of crime and human trafficking in the United States." Dkt. 253 at 9-10 & n.6.

14 Were there any doubt as to the equivalence of the two parties' proposals, Plaintiffs
15 would be amenable to limiting the Class to those children who are:

16 potentially eligible for asylum under 8 U.S.C. 1158, withholding of removal under 8
17 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture, potentially able
18 to make a claim of United States citizenship, or potentially eligible for other remedies
under the Immigration and Nationality Act that could lead to termination of
proceedings.

19 That definition would also permit counsel to vindicate other forms of relief recognized by
20 Congress that would result in the child obtaining lawful status. The critical point is that *neither*
21 party believed that the Class definition must be limited only to those with potential asylum or
22 citizenship claims, to the exclusion of other Congressionally-recognized remedies.

23 *Second*, there is no doctrinal or practical rationale for such a limitation. Insofar as the
24 Court is using potential asylum/citizenship eligibility as a proxy for harm, Congress has
25 recognized (and Plaintiffs have shown) that injury to children comes in many other forms,
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1 including the possibility of being returned to countries where their families have abused or
2 abandoned them. *See* Dkt. 235 ¶7; Dkt. 234 ¶¶10-12; Dkt. 232 ¶8. For example, F.L.B. suffered
3 abuse at the hands of his father and neglect by his mother, while eleven-year-old E.G.C. was
4 abandoned by both his parents. While they also both happen to be potentially eligible for
5 asylum, their ability to join a class seeking appointed counsel should not turn on that fact. The
6 immigration statutes recognize the variety of harms that children may suffer by providing
7 pathways to lawful status for children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by their
8 parents, as well as those who are victims of crime and trafficking. *See* Dkt. 235 ¶7; Dkt. 234
9 ¶¶10-12; Dkt. 232 ¶8. Modifying the Class definition would be entirely consistent with
10 Congress' recognition that such children deserve protection.

11 *Third*, keeping such children in the Class would have no effect on commonality because
12 such children are no differently situated than children with potential claims for asylum and its
13 related protections, or U.S. citizenship. All of them share the same claim for legal
14 representation, face similar prospects of harm sufficient to warrant Congressional recognition,
15 and are unable to pursue these defenses without counsel. *See* Dkt. 230 at 17-19. For these
16 reasons, the Court should certify a class that includes them.

17 **IV. This Court Should Require Defendants to Notify Class Members of This Litigation
18 Through Relevant Agency Personnel.**

19 The Court should require Defendants to notify class members about this litigation and
20 bear the costs of such notice. Defendants are uniquely positioned to identify class members,
21 and without their cooperation, Class counsel will be unable to communicate with and protect
22 the rights of Class members who may be affected by this lawsuit.

23 Under Rule 23, the Court is authorized to order “appropriate” notice in class actions
24 certified under Rule 23(b)(2). *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(A). In addition, Rule 23(d) grants the
25 Court broad authority to issue a variety of orders to manage the litigation, including to “require
26 – to protect class members and fairly conduct the action – giving appropriate notice to some or

1 all class members of . . . any step in the action.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(d)(1)(B)(i). Where
2 “defendants may be able to perform a necessary task with less difficulty or expense than could
3 the representative plaintiff,” the Court may order them, rather than the plaintiffs, to effect
4 notice. *Oppenheimer Fund, Inc. v. Sanders*, 437 U.S. 340, 356 (1978). Most relevant here, the
5 Ninth Circuit has interpreted Rule 23(d) to authorize requiring the Government to identify and
6 inform immigrant class members of pending litigation to “prevent the irreparable harm of an
7 erroneous deportation.” *Barahona-Gomez v. Reno*, 167 F.3d 1228, 1236-37 (9th Cir. 1999).
8 This was appropriate because (1) doing so would not be burdensome on the agency, (2) the
9 agency was “uniquely positioned to ascertain class membership,” and (3) notice was required to
10 ensure that the agency did not “mistakenly deport a class member.” *Id.* at 1237; *see also Barnes*
11 *v. United States*, 72 Fed. Cl. 6, 9 (2006) (collecting cases in which defendants were ordered to
12 identify class members or send them notice letters).

13 Here, Defendants should be ordered to provide notice in two simple and non-
14 burdensome ways: First, by requiring IJs and other agency personnel who come into contact
15 with potential class member children to inform them of this litigation and their possible class
16 membership through a short notice that will include information for a website through which
17 they can obtain information from Plaintiffs’ counsel; and second, by requiring Defendants’
18 agency personnel to inform Government counsel each time an IJ orders a class member
19 removed, so that Government counsel can then communicate that information to Plaintiffs’
20 counsel. *See* Ex. A (sample class member notice and IJ advisal letter).

21 This notice mechanism is appropriate and necessary for two reasons. *First*, once a class
22 is certified, Plaintiffs’ counsel have an attorney-client relationship with each Class member,
23 and therefore a right (if not a duty) to communicate with them. “Class counsel represents all
24 class members as soon as a class is certified.” *Kleiner v. First Nat. Bank of Atlanta*, 751 F.2d
25 1193, 1207 n.28 (11th Cir. 1985); *Van Gemert v. Boeing Co.*, 590 F.2d 433, 440 n.15 (2d Cir.
26

1 1978) (“A certification under [then-Rule 23(c)] makes the Class the attorney’s client for all
2 practical purposes.”); *Tedesco v. Miskin*, 629 F. Supp. 1474, 1483 (S.D.N.Y. 1986) (“A lawyer
3 who represents the named plaintiff in a class which has been certified immediately assumes
4 responsibility to class members for diligent, competent prosecution of the certified claims.”).

5 Class counsel therefore have a right to communicate with their clients. Such
6 communication is all the more critical here, where children could be ordered removed in
7 violation of their right to appointed legal representation. Plaintiffs’ proposed notice procedures
8 would permit such children to be identified in time for Plaintiffs to protect their rights by
9 providing timely information to them about this litigation.

10 *Second*, it is impossible for Plaintiffs’ counsel to identify Class members without the
11 cooperation of IJs and other government officials. The Class is comprised entirely of children,
12 who lack the ability to self-identify as Class members, let alone to initiate contact with counsel.
13 By contrast, Defendants have identifying information about all Class members; indeed, the
14 Class is defined by reference to an action Defendants have taken in each child’s case. *Cf.*
15 *Barahona*, 167 F.3d at 1236-37 (observing that Government was “uniquely positioned to
16 ascertain class membership”); *Barnes*, 72 Fed. Cl. at 9 (requiring Government to provide notice
17 because they were in “sole possession of the relevant . . . records”). Similarly, IJs regularly
18 encounter Class members in their courtrooms and can readily inform them about this ongoing
19 litigation. Requiring agency officials to effect notice via the straightforward methods proposed
20 here is therefore minimally burdensome upon Defendants. *Cf. Barahona*, 167 F.3d at 1237.

21 CONCLUSION

22 Accordingly, Plaintiffs submit that this Court’s Class and Subclasses satisfy the
23 requirements of Federal Rule 23. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court affirm its
24 tentative certification order with the modifications they have proposed, and that the Court order
25 notice to the class.

1 DATED this 6th day of May, 2016.
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CERTIFICATE OF ECF FILING AND SERVICE

I certify that on May 6, 2016, I arranged for electronic filing of the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all parties of record:

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